

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 19, 2006. Claim 2 has been canceled, and new claims 16-19 added. Thus, claims 1 and 3-19 are now pending.

With respect to section 1 of the Office Action, the specification and claims have been amended as requested by the Examiner to address these formality issues.

With respect to the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection in section 2 of the Office Action, “more or less” has been removed from the claims requested by the Examiner. Moreover, the term “PP-EPDM” is supported by the instant specification at paragraph [0027]. With respect to claim 11, paragraph [0058] of the instant specification discusses examples of one or more additives of porous structure preventing yellowing of at least one of the sealing resin layer or layers. The claims are respectfully submitted to be clear and definite in these respects.

Claims 1 and 14

Claims 1 and 14 stand rejected under Section 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by each of Yoda and Shingo. These Section 102(e) rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 14 as amended each require that “*the edge face sealing member is substantially C-shaped in cross section and/or substantially U-shaped in cross section; the edge face sealing member comprises one or more upper sealing regions abutting one or more front surfaces of at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies; the edge face sealing member further including one or more lower sealing regions abutting one or more back surfaces of at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies; the edge face sealing member further including one or more side sealing regions abutting one or more edge faces of at least one of the solar cell module body or bodies; the upper sealing region and the lower sealing region being disposed so*

as to open to the outside therefrom at either side from edge portions of the side sealing region.”

Yoda and Shingo fail to disclose or suggest these features of amended claims 1 and 14.

Claim 18

Claim 18 requires that the solar cell module edge face sealing member structure comprises *at least one projection extending inwardly from an interior surface of each of the sidewalls, and wherein the respective tip portions extend further inwardly than do the respective projections when the solar cell module body and edge face sealing member are in a state where they have not yet been provided in the frame body.* Again, the cited art fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 19, either taken alone or in combination.

Claim 19

Claim 19 requires that *“the edge face sealing member is substantially U-shaped and has first and second sidewalls which are connected to each other via a bottom wall, and wherein each of the sidewalls includes a distal end tip portion that is angled relative to a main body of the sidewall so that the tip portions angle inwardly toward and contact the solar cell module body when the solar cell module body and edge face sealing member are in a state where they have not yet been provided in the frame body.”* For example and without limitation, Fig. 3(a) of the instant application illustrate that the edge face sealing member (1) is substantially U-shaped and has first and second sidewalls (11, 12) which are connected to each other via a bottom wall (13), and wherein each of the sidewalls (11, 12) includes a distal end tip portion (11a, 12a) that is angled relative to a main body of the sidewall so that the tip portions (11a, 12a) angle inwardly toward and contact the solar cell module body (4) when the solar cell module body (4) and edge face sealing member (1) are in a state where they have not yet been provided in the frame body (5, 54).

Both Yoda and Shingo fail to disclose or suggest the aforesaid quoted features of claim 19. Moreover, Meadows and Yoda/Shingo are not properly combinable under Section 103(a). In particular, Yoda and Shingo relate to solar cells, whereas Meadows relates to a window sash. One of ordinary skill in the solar cell art would not have looked to window sashes for teachings for use in solar cells. The two arts are non-analogous. Moreover, there is no suggestion or motivation for such a combination.

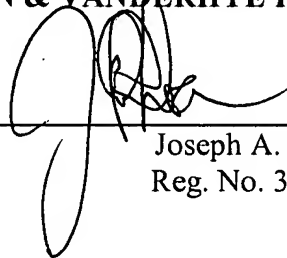
Conclusion

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100